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The Giant Oak and Fairyland.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

By Charles Jerome Traxler

*Lawyer, Lecturer and Author of
Twilight Sketches*

This poem was suggested by the close proximity of one of our peony gardens to a Giant Oak which is 30 feet 6 inches in circumference at its base.

I.

At eventide in fairyland, the fairy met the elf
Who brought the fleecy, cloud-like float to transport with himself
From fairyland, the Fairy Queen in royal robes and cloak
To meet the fairy folk on earth beneath the Giant Oak.

II.

The jolly little fairy folk, they gaily dance and sing
Their praises of the Giant Oak, the giant forest king;
It is the fairest place on earth for jolly fairy folk
To meet their Queen and dance and sing, beneath the Giant Oak.

III.

The Fairy Queen gave strict commands to elf and fairy too
To paint the flowers near the Oak in every rainbow hue,
To notify, as fairies can, the common earthly folk,
That fairyland is not far off from this great Giant Oak.

IV.

The elf and fairies painted well, obeyed the Queen's command,
And made the gardens near the Oak resemble fairyland;
So by decree of Fairy Queen, which courts cannot revoke,
The fairyland on earth shall be near by the Giant Oak.

V.

Should any doubt this fairy tale of rainbow tinted flowers,
So painted at the Queen's command in early morning hours,
Let him but call in May or June when Spring is full awoke,
He'll find a fairyland of flowers near by the Giant Oak.

VI.

Ten million fragrant peonies, of every hue,
In matchless shades and blendings that mortal cannot do,
That tally with the flowers of which the fairy spoke,
Are grown in mammoth gardens near by the Giant Oak.

